



ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1972

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

J. C. HINCHLIFFEE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspectors

D. H. CORFIELD, M.A.P.H.I., Chief Inspector

C. T. MABBOTT, M.A.P.H.I., Senior Inspector

R. L. SANKEY, D.M.A., M.A.P.H.I., Additional Inspector

Public Health Laboratory Service

Bacteriologist: DR. C. A. MORRIS

Public Health Laboratory

Copthorne Hospital, Shrewsbury

Atcham Rural District Council

OAKLEY MANOR,

BELLE VUE,

SHREWSBURY, SY3 7NW.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the report on the health of Atcham Rural District for 1972.

Once upon a time half of all live births were dead by the age of 5 years.

Nowadays with antibiotics, immunisation, modern medical techniques and a far more sanitary environment survival is the rule. At the other end of the life span more people live on from 70 to 80 years. Britains population is increasing by 370 per day. My report shows that Atcham is making its modest contribution to the population explosion. The rapid increase in population is a comparatively recent phenomenon noted over the past few decades, and brings with it the need for a much expanded family planning service including domiciliary visiting.

There can be no doubt that birth control is destined to be the most important priority of community health.

It is pleasing to note that once again there has been a big decrease in the notifiable infectious diseases. Less welcome is the increase in cancer deaths from 50 to 70 of which 11 are of the lungs and bronchus.

Ischaemic heart disease and cerebrovascular disease as usual top the death charts. It is interesting to note that the only group to experience a fall in these vascular diseases is that of doctors themselves who have drastically cut down on smoking.

It has been said recently that people living in hard water areas are less liable to vascular disease.

In conclusion I wish to thank Mr. Corfield and staff for willing co-operation at all times.

JOHN HINCHLIFFE.

Section A

VITAL STATISTICS

England and Wales

Atcham

14.8	Live Birth Rate	13.7
12	Stillbirth Rate	18
17	Infant Mortality Rate	13
12	Neonatal Mortality Rate	11
22	Perinatal Mortality Rate	26
12.1	Death Rate	12.9

AREA (in acres inclusive of water)	..	..	..	..	139,512
ESTIMATED POPULATION (Mid-1972)	..	..	..	..	27,190
Births					
LIVE BIRTHS: Legitimate	..	..	..	..	354
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	18
Total	..	..	..	..	372
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTH; as % of Total Live Births	..	..	..	..	5
LIVE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population:					
Crude	..	..	..	..	13.7
Standardised	..	..	..	..	13.8
STILL BIRTHS: Legitimate	..	..	..	..	5
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	2
Total	..	..	..	..	7
STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total births	..	..	..	..	18
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	..	..	..	..	379
Infant Deaths					
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR:					
Total	..	..	..	..	5
Rate per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	13
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	5
Rate per 1,000 legitimate births	..	..	..	..	14
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	..	..	..	..	—
DEATHS UNDER 4 WEEKS	..	..	..	..	4
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	11
DEATHS UNDER 1 WEEK	..	..	..	..	3
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	8
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 1 week and stillbirths per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	..	..	..	..	26

Deaths						
TOTAL DEATHS from all causes	..	..	..	..	..	350
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population:						
Crude	..	..	..	..	..	12·9
Standardised	..	..	..	..	..	11·7

The total number of the population in the District as at the 30th June, 1972, is estimated by the Registrar-General as 27,190. This figure is 410 above the figure given for 1971.

The following are the estimates of the population for the District in 1972, and the figures for the years 1968, 1969 and 1970 are also given for comparison purposes.

		1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Estimated Population	..	25,840	26,110	26,260	26,780	27,190

Section B

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

These Services are provided by the County Council under the authority of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Care of Mothers and Young Children

(a) CHILD HEALTH CENTRES

Public Hall, Pontesbury 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

Village Hall, Condover 2nd Fridays

Mobile Clinic visits Alberbury, Bayston Hill, Bicton, Bicton Heath, Ford,
Hanwood, Longnor, Minsterley, Westbury and Yockleton.

(b) FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS

The Shrewsbury and District Branch of the Family Planning Association operate clinics in the County Council's Health Centre at Murivance, Shrewsbury, as follows: Mondays, 1.30 p.m.—3.30 p.m. (Bank Holidays excepted), 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays each month; 6.30 p.m.—7.30 p.m. (Bank Holidays excepted); 2nd Wednesdays each month, 2.30 p.m.—3.30 p.m. (for Oral Contraceptives and Appointments) 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesdays each month, 11.00 a.m.—1.00 p.m. (for advise on Intra-Uterine devices, by appointment only).

(c) CARE OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND ILLEGIMATE CHILDREN

As from 1st April, 1970, Moral Welfare Work on behalf of Hereford Diocesan Association was taken over by County Council Health Visitors.

The Lichfield Diocesan Association continues to be represented by Mrs. C. V. Jones, 25 Talbot Chambers, Market Street, Shrewsbury (4900).

The County Council gives substantial grants to two Mother and Baby Homes affiliated to the Lichfield Diocese, but within the County, to which cases from any County District may be admitted.

(d) DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

There are seven distribution points in the area from which supplies of National Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin A and D tablets) can be obtained. These points have been set up at a variety of places, including Child Health Centres, Post Offices, local shops and private houses.

Midwifery and Home Nursing

The County Council employs a total of two midwives in the District. Throughout the whole area they undertake district nursing as well as Midwifery duties. In addition, two full-time District Nurses are employed.

Health Visiting

The year 1972 saw further progress in the scheme of attachment of Health Visitors to General Practices in the area.

Ambulance Service

The Central Ambulance Depot is at Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, and the telephone number is Shrewsbury 6331. A new full-time Ambulance Depot was opened at Craven Arms on 25th December, 1965, replacing the former Sub-Depots at Ludlow and Bishop's Castle. At the end of the year 1972 there were 19 ambulances at Shrewsbury and 5 dual purpose vehicles. 5 ambulances and 2 dual-purpose vehicles were based at Craven Arms.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Protection is offered, in particular, to pre-school children, school children, and in special circumstances to others, against Smallpox, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis and Measles and to children of thirteen years and over against Tuberculosis.

The immunisation procedure is carried out in many cases by General Medical Practitioners, and by School Medical Officers in Clinics and Schools.

Travellers to countries where Yellow Fever is endemic are given protection, but a fee of £1.25 is charged for this service. Vaccination sessions, for which patients are given appointments, are held at the Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, on the first and third Mondays in the month at 3 p.m.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care

(a) All home nurses and midwives hold a small supply of minor articles of nursing equipment such as hot water bottles, air rings, bed pans and feeding cups for loan to patients being nursed at home.

(b) The treatment of Tuberculosis falls to Regional Hospital Boards to provide in the way of Sanatoria and Chest Clinics, but the preventive and after-care side of the work is shared between the Hospital Boards and Local Health Authorities. The County Council for their share provide open-air Shelters where required. They also join with Regional Boards in making from time to time local arrangements for Chest Radiology Surveys, and through their Health Visitors undertake a considerable amount of follow-up work with patients. Extra nourishment may be provided in necessitous cases.

(c) Arrangements are made under this section for the convalescence of persons not requiring special medical or nursing care.

(d) Through their Mental Welfare Officers and Health Visitors, the County Council are responsible for the supervision in their own homes of mentally handicapped persons, and also for helping general medical practitioners to secure hospital treatment for those persons who become mentally unbalanced.

Domestic Help

This area is for the most part served from two Home Help Offices. The Shrewsbury Office, which is open from Monday to Friday, deals with the majority of the cases in the Atcham Rural District. There is an Office in Church Stretton, open on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons. A few cases on the eastern borders of the Atcham Rural District may fall to be dealt with by either the Wellington or the Bridgnorth Home Help Offices.

The majority of cases dealt with by the Shrewsbury Office were resident in the Borough.

Hospital Service

Complementary to the Health Services provided by the County Council under the provisions of Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Hospital and Specialist Services are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board under the provisions of Part II of the Act.

The District is reasonably well supplied with hospitals under the Nos. 15 and 16 Hospital Management Committees and by Consultants based on the principal hospitals, but who hold Specialist Clinics at many of the smaller hospitals in the area.

For the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis, Chest Clinics are held at Copthorne Hospital Shrewsbury, and at Wellington.

Venereal Diseases Clinic

This Clinic is held at 1 Belmont, Shrewsbury, and is provided by the Shrewsbury Group Hospital Management Committee as part of the hospital and specialist service. The Medical Officers in charge are Dr. J. P. G. Rogerson and Dr. E. M. McCarter. The Clinic also serves the neighbouring Counties of Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire.

The times of sessions at the Venereal Diseases Clinics are now as follows:

Males:	Tuesday and Fridays	..	..	..	6-8 p.m.
Females:	Mondays	..	..	..	3.30-5.30 p.m.
	Thursdays	..	..	..	5-7 p.m.

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory at the Copthorne Hospital is extensively used for the bacteriological examination of water, milk and ice cream.

Chemical analyses of water samples and sewage effluents are made by the Public Analyst at Chester.

Good laboratory facilities are very necessary to the work of the Health Department, and I should like to express my thanks to Dr. C. A. Morris of the Shrewsbury Laboratory, and his staff for their assistance, in particular perhaps for their invaluable advice when some bacteriological or epidemiological problem arises.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Refuse Collection and Disposal

This service continued to operate on a largely satisfactory basis during the year, although the growing stock of houses is placing an increasing strain on the current collection schedules. All the rounds are now operating at above target figure and were it not for the imminence of local government reorganisation, a re-structuring of the scheme would be desirable during the coming year.

The total staff remained at 16 (there has been no increase since 1969) including the foreman. We were sorry to lose the services during the year of Mr. George Pugh who was obliged to retire on medical grounds early in the year after more than 22 years service with the Council.

The collection vehicles were all modern rear-loading machines, consisting of two Dennis Paxit 18/24 cu. yd., freighters, one Paxit 35/50 cu. yd., continuous loader, and one Paxit 25/40 cu. yd., continuous loader. One of the older Paxits was replaced during the year by a Colectomatic 80 cu. yd., intermittent loader on a Dennis chassis. Once again I am glad to record the excellent service the Council has enjoyed from the Dennis vehicles.

A total mileage of 53,798 was travelled by the five freighters during the year—this represented a slight decrease on the previous year due to our failure to secure the contract for the removal of refuse from the Army Camp at Nesseliffe.

The maintenance of the Council's vehicles is presenting more and more problems, particularly since all local authority vehicles (hitherto exempted from testing requirements) had to be subjected to the M.O.T. test by September, 1973, and the Council's Fitter and his apprentice have been very busy in preparing the vehicles for these tests. Moreover, the Council has been involved in considerable expense in bringing the vehicles up to the very high standard demanded by the testing station.

The new office and stores building at the Depot was completed and occupied in March and has provided much-needed accommodation for all the staff employed at or from the Depot.

At the beginning of the year, all refuse was being disposed of on the Borough Council's tip at Mousecroft Lane, but unfortunately that tip soon terminated due to a misunderstanding with the owners, and tipping commenced at this Council's new tip at Fox Farm, Weeping Cross, on 17th June. As with the former Boar's Den tip, the Fox Farm tip has the particular advantage of good access from all parts of the district, and it is expected to last until well after reorganisation in April, 1974. The Boar's Den still awaits final soiling over, but the availability of good top soil at the end of the year now brings this terminal work nearer. During the year the Council reconsidered tipping charges, and a minimum charge of 50p per load for private contractors was decided upon in the light of increased costs incurred in refuse disposal. It is sad to record the odious practice of sorting over and removing of rubbish dumped at the tip: the culprits are mostly gipsies and similar types who make a thorough nuisance of themselves, despite the threat of court action against them.

The introduction of the Deposit of Poisonous Wastes Act during the year has imposed on the Council certain obligations in connection with the disposal of waste materials, and the use of the Council's tip has been denied to industrial organisations in the area in respect of certain wastes.

The dustbin hiring scheme, inaugurated in 1955, continued successfully and a total of 542 bins were issued in 1972. Well over 6,000 bins have now been issued since the scheme started, and the earlier and heavier steel bins are now being replaced by modern plastic bins which have a number of advantages.

Civic Amenities Act

The year saw continuing activity in the Council's work under the provision of this Act, mainly in connection with the removal of abandoned vehicles and other accumulations of rubbish.

Eighteen (18) such vehicles were removed during the year, of which eleven were taken by the Council and the remainder by the owners after pressure from the Council. One owner was fined £15 by the Magistrates after pleading guilty to dumping an old car on private land at Minsterley.

Several other accumulations of rubbish were removed, including long-standing dumps at Callow Hill, Minsterley, and at Bulthy Hill where the owners co-operated in tidying-up the areas. One trouble spot still remains at Hanley Lane, Bayston Hill, where it has been difficult to establish the ownership of the land on which local residents have dumped rubbish over many years.

The County Council's decision to replace litter bins on trunk roads has been welcomed: the new style bins are a notable improvement on the old (concrete tube) pattern. I would like to record our appreciation of the help volunteered by the boys of Shrewsbury School who have cleared a great deal of rubbish from roadside verges and local beauty spots on a one-day per week campaign.

The local Magistrates fined three young men during the year for throwing down and destroying a litter bin at Cressage.

Rodent Control

The year has seen little change in the Council's rodent control programme, with the Council's operators working steadily to meet our contract commitments and dealing with other reported and discovered infestations.

Although there was more than a 10% increase in the number of agricultural premises treated, this number is only approximately 6% of the total number of agricultural premises in the district, and it is very disappointing that more farmers do not make use of the service.

Following complaints from the Westbury Parish Council, a detailed survey was made of the village to ascertain the extent of the infestation: fortunately, the situation had been exaggerated and a comprehensive treatment quickly disposed of the rodents.

The principal poison used continued to be Racumin (an anti-coagulant) with zinc phosphide (an acute poison) reluctantly in certain instances. Warfarin is no longer used in the district because of the spread of warfarin-resistance.

For a brief period during the year, Mr. V. Morris (one of the Council's Operators) was detached to Ludlow R.D.C., who were experiencing temporary difficulties in maintaining their service.

The number of premises treated by the Operators during the year was as follows:

Private houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	372
Agricultural properties	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	103
Business properties	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	78
Council sewerage schemes, sewage works, tips, lay-byes, etc.	..							46

Caravans

During the year, six licences were issued under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, all for individual caravans.

Proceedings were taken against the owner of land at Upper Battlefield for continually allowing the land to be used by travellers: a fine of £25 (including costs) was imposed.

The only major licensed site in the area is at Pool View, Buildwas. There the owner was in the process of replacing all the thirty original caravans with a superior type of mobile home—more nearly a prefabricated bungalow than a caravan, but still coming within the definition of “caravan” in the relevant legislation.

The only holiday sites in the district remained at Bridge Inn, Dorrington (six standings) and Mill Farm, Hughley (eight standings) but it is clear that there is a growing demand for such sites, and at the end of the year an application was pending for such a site at Ford's Heath on the the western side of the District.

Slum Clearance

Since the completion of the Council's Housing Survey in 1967, there has been little need for additional formal action under the provisions of the Housing Acts, but consolidating action has been undertaken in respect of those properties which were considered to be of marginal standard (mainly when the Council has undertaken the re-housing of occupants of sub-standard houses).

During the year, the Council considered (following the service of ‘time-and-place’ notices) six (6) houses, on five of which demolition or closing orders were made: plans were accepted for the improvement of the remaining house.

A total of 18 houses were demolished, however, and since the slum clearance drive began in 1964, a total of 304 houses throughout the district have been demolished. At the end of the year the Council took action in default of the owner, and demolished a cottage at Bomere Heath which had become dangerous. There are still 325 houses in the district subject to orders; many of these are now used as farm stores, or for similar non-residential purposes, and are in remote or inaccessible positions. As opposed to this, 77 houses were made fit during the year, including five on which the Council had previously made closing or demolition orders.

Seven families were re-housed from condemned cottages (a disappointing reduction on the 22 of the previous year) and although the number is gradually reducing, it should be noted that at 31st December, there were still 102 families living in condemned houses (the large majority of these are elderly people who do not wish to move).

I am glad to say that I have received complete co-operation from owners of sub-standard houses (not subject to orders) which have become vacant during the year. In these instances, requests not to re-tenant have invariably been complied with. The comment should be made however, that such cottages have assumed an extraordinary value on the open market, and the demand for them is such that owners are only too happy to keep them vacant for sale. The availability of the larger improvement grants has increased this trend of course, but the price such properties are fetching putting them beyond the reach of many local people.

Unfortunately staff resources do not permit a second round of the Housing Survey, particularly with the imminence of reorganisation, but there is still an appreciable pool of houses which fall into Category 4—most of them occupied—and it is desirable to keep up the impetus of slum clearance action which has proved so beneficial since 1964.

Drainage

Although a number of drainage nuisances were complained of during the year, the installation of main sewerage schemes is now beginning to have a marked effect.

There are still many areas where septic tank drainage is unsuitable due to the impermeability of the sub-soil, and villages and settlements subject to this disadvantage figure high on the list of proposed sewerage schemes. Apart from the hygienic and aesthetic objections to small-scale sewage disposal with the almost inevitable effluent nuisance, it is beginning to be realised that the re-cycling of water is essential as water consumption increases both in the home and industry.

It is heartening therefore to record the completion of Hookagate/Annscroft/Longden/Lyth Bank Scheme, and the commencement of the Upton Magna/Withington Scheme, the Cardington Scheme and the massive Western Parishes Scheme. The scheme to serve our north-western parishes of Little Ness and Pimhill (part of the North Shropshire R.D.C. proposals) was also imminent at the end of the year, and the next two years should see a marked reduction in the problem of drainage disposal throughout the district.

By the end of the year, it was estimated that out of a total of 9,638 dwellings in the area, some 4,932 in nineteen villages were connected to the Council's sewers. It was also calculated that there are still 740 dwellings in the district without satisfactory drainage systems (i.e. no septic tanks or connections to a sewer).

Water Supplies and Sampling

During the year a total of 167 drinking water samples were obtained for bacteriological examination: of these 92 were of an unsatisfactory quality, all from private well or spring supplies. A large proportion of the samples were taken in connection with applications for improvement grants.

By the end of the year it was estimated that out of a total of 9,638 dwellings in the area, 7,759 were connected to a mains water supply and a further 354 connected to private mains supplies.

A number of samples of the Condover Borehole water submitted for chemical analysis showed a higher-than-usual level of nitrates, although the mixing of this water with that from another source eliminated risk; investigations by the River Authority and West Shropshire Water Board are still pending.

Sixty-six samples of water from the Pontesbury Secondary Modern School swimming bath were submitted for bacteriological examination and all proved to be satisfactory—the first year that there has been no problem of this nature. The bath had to be closed for a short period towards the end of the year when a leak developed.

Petroleum Storage

During the year the Council received only two applications for new licences to store petroleum spirit, although a number of existing licensees applied for permission to increase their existing storage capacity.

Two licensees ceased storage, and by the end of the year there were 137 licenced installations, of which 38 were held by petrol retailers. The Texaco Oil Company ceased storage during the year at their distributing depot at Leaton Station, Bomere Heath, but North Western Farmers Ltd., were negotiating for the transfer of the licence at the end of the year.

There is a marked improvement in filling stations generally, and a number of licensees are currently applying to increase and re-model their stations. For example, the licensee of the Four Crosses Filling Station on the A.5 at Bicton has built a new station during the year alongside the old station, incorporating all the Home Office requirements.

Food Premises

General Stores	..	..	..	..	65
Public Houses and Hotels			..	..	60
Licensed Clubs	..	..	..	..	11
Butcher's Shops	..	..	..	..	11
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	4
Creameries	..	..	..	..	3
Food canning factory	..	..	..	..	1
Chemists' Shops	..	..	..	..	2
Cafes and Restaurants	..	..	..	..	9
Village Halls	..	..	..	..	43

Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:

Fish Frying Premises	..	..	..	3
Ice Cream Retailers	..	..	..	77
Meat preparation premises	..	..	..	4

The standard of food premises in the area continued to be of a high degree, with only a small minority falling seriously short of the requirements of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations.

One new development was the establishment of a cash-and-carry frozen food warehouse at the Atcham Storage estate; this proved so popular that the management quickly became short of space and sought to expand by utilising unsatisfactory buildings. Negotiations were still in progress at the end of the year.

Most of the public houses in the district are now of a good standard, although one or two fall short of modern requirements, mostly in those areas where there is insufficient trade to justify a large expenditure on modernisation programmes. One such house is at Vrongate and when the elderly licensee died during the year, the Department liaised with the licensing magistrates to secure the necessary improvements.

During the year, the former fruit canning factory at Minsterley was converted to meat canning, and the processing of tongues commenced early in the year. A very high standard of hygiene was imposed by the Management who willingly complied with all requirements made by the Council.

Infectious Diseases

There was no outbreak of infectious disease of significance and the year showed an appreciable improvement on 1971. There were only 29 cases of measles and 4 of whooping cough (compared with 58 and 45 respectively in 1971). No cases of food poisoning were notified.

It is interesting to record, however, in connection with the opening of the meat canning factory referred to above, that routine examination of faecal specimens from food handlers at the factory produced one positive specimen and further detailed investigations by the Public Health Laboratory showed that the employee was a carrier of a strain of salmonella previously unrecorded in this country. The person concerned was laid off work until medical treatment and subsequent laboratory tests showed that the organism had been eliminated.

The year showed a marked decline in the number of notifications of farm livestock infected with salmonella organisms. By an arrangement with the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, such infections are notified to the Council so that farming personnel can be acquainted with the hazards of handling infected animals. Not infrequently, our investigations reveal cross-infection of farmers and their staff.

Nuisances

I am glad to record that 1972 was a better year than usual with regard to nuisance complaints.

The most contentious source of nuisance at the Ford Poultry unit showed a marked improvement, due no doubt to the commencement of High Court action. The accumulation of manure continues on the site however, and unless an early solution is found there will eventually be an enormous stockpile of this potentially offensive material.

The most constant source of complaint during the year was the village of Minsterley, where increasing activity at Express Dairies Ltd., factory is leading to protests from local residents about the smell associated with the handling of sludge from the creamery's sewage works. The Company are alive to the problem, however, and by the end of the year had submitted proposals for the installation of additional plant which, it is anticipated, will minimise the nuisance.

Other nuisances complained of were the spreading of sewage sludge, spreading of milk-waste sludge, smell from an intensive broiler unit, the deposition of cow dung on the highway, farm drainage outfalls, and noise from a licensed kennels.

An unusual and potentially dangerous situation arose during the year when a considerable amount of publicity was given nationally to the hazard contained in certain imported necklaces formed of small beans which had been found to be extremely poisonous. As a result of the publicity a number of necklaces were handed in and were destroyed.

Housing Management

The total number of Council houses, bungalows and flats fell during the year, due to the sale of some to sitting tenants, and by the end of the year the figure stood at 1,574.

All maintenance work was undertaken by Contractors, of whom the Council employed a total of twelve in varying degrees. During the year 1,782 repair instructions were issued to all trades, and all urgent and pressing work was carried out.

The maintenance agreement with the Midlands Electricity Board expired during the year and was re-negotiated at an increased figure of 40p per house. This agreement has proved extremely beneficial in the saving of administrative work.

Under the new Housing Finance Act, housing repair funds have been dispensed with, but an allowance for repairs of £25 per house was made for the year—an increase of £3 per house which reflects an overspending of the repair fund in the previous year. Maintenance costs rose sharply during the year however as building trades operatives received appreciable wage increases, and it has been impossible to continue the improvement of electrical installations in older houses, commenced in 1971.

As the stock of houses ages, maintenance costs are rising correspondingly and, for example the replacement of windows and other joinery in fourteen houses at Montford Bridge (built in 1921) cost a total of nearly £2,500. A number of other houses built in the same period are in a similar condition and there appears to be no alternative but to increase expenditure year-by-year to maintain the houses in good repair.

It is noticeable that tenants are increasingly demanding better living standards. Early in the year (following a serious fire) a house became vacant in Cross Houses and the Council experimented with the installation of Electricaire warm-air central heating during the restoration. When the installation had been completed, the house was opened as a show-house and tenants were invited to visit and inspect. This proved extremely popular, and quite a considerable number of tenants enquired about the possibility of having the installation in their homes. By the end of the year, twenty-five (25) houses had been adapted with a number of others pending. In addition, work commenced on the improvement of twenty-one houses at Croft Cottages, Pontesbury, including the provision of electric heating. By the end of the year, nearly two-hundred houses, bungalows and flats were equipped with this form of heating.

The improvement of grassed areas and access roads on housing estates continued again during the year, and the results have been rewarding. Formerly rough areas have been cleaned up, cultivated and grassed down, giving a pleasing appearance and making them easier to cut. Access roads have been improved at Cressage, Nesscliffe, Bomere Heath, and Minsterley, but the growing ownership of motor cars is creating more and more need for access where none exist at present.

Following protracted correspondence during the year with the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications concerning the licensing of communal television aerial systems, the Council decided to dismantle the majority of these systems on their various blocks of flats. This was because these systems are for V.H.F. reception only and more tenants are now buying U.H.F., receivers.

It is sad to record the enforced resignation (through illness) in August of Mrs. E. Corfield, the former Warden of School Green Group Bungalows. Mrs. Corfield had filled the post since the bungalows were built in 1968, and she had earned the esteem of all who came into contact with her.

Re-Housing

During the year a total of 152 families were re-housed (a slight decrease on the previous year) and these were made up as follows:

From sub-standard houses	..	..	..	7
From waiting list	..	..	..	86
Re-arranged and exchanged tenancies	..	..	..	59
Total	..	..	..	152

A total of 254 applications were received during the year, somewhat more than the previous year, and at 31st December, 1972, the waiting list stood at 596. The only accommodation to be built by the Council were the group bungalows at Chapel Close, Bomere Heath, and these were completed and occupied by June. There are eighteen bed-sitting room units and fourteen separate bedroom types together with the Warden's house and communal room block, all centrally heated by Electricaire. The completed estate presents a most pleasing appearance.

The surge in the price of houses, together with rising rents, has stimulated much more interest by tenants wishing to buy their homes, and during the year a further thirty-nine (39) houses and bungalows were sold making a total of 46 since 1970. Recent valuations by the District Valuer show a heavy increase in the recommended selling price since the scheme started, however, and the number of sales may now decline a little.

Housing Statistics

Number of habitable houses in the District	..	..	..	..	9,638
Number of council houses, bungalows and flats	..	..	..	1,547	
Number of houses completed in 1972:					
Council Houses	..	..	..	..	33
Private Houses	..	..	..	..	176
Number of houses under construction at 31st December, 1972:					
Council Houses	..	..	..	..	Nil
Private Houses	..	..	..	..	200
Number of houses demolished during the year	..	..	..	18	
Number of unfit houses closed	..	..	..	4	
Number of unfit houses made fit	..	..	..	99	

Staff

There were no staff changes during the year, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all my colleagues for their loyal and conscientious efforts.

DENIS CORFIELD,

*Chief Public Health Inspector.
and Housing Manager.*

May, 1973.

Section D

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year.

Disease						
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3
Measles .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	29
Whooping Cough .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	4
Pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—
Polio myelitis:						
Paralytic .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—
Non-paralytic .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—
Food Poisoning .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—
Dysentery .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—
Tuberculosis:						
Pulmonary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1
Non-pulmonary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1
Para-Typhoid .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—
Infective Hepatitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total						39

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases during the year was 39—86 less than the number notified in the previous year.

No cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis were notified. Children can be immunised against diphtheria and poliomyelitis, either by the family doctors or at the schools or Infant Welfare Centres by the Medical Officers of the County Health Department. The last case of diphtheria notified was in the year 1949.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following were the numbers of notified cases of tuberculosis on the Register as at the 31st December, 1972:

Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total	
M	F	M	F	M	F
25	25	7	6	32	31

During the year two cases of tuberculosis were notified, both male.

Deaths

There were no deaths from tuberculosis in the district during the year.

CANCER

The total number of deaths from cancer, including leukaemia, in the district, was 70. This gives a death rate of 2.5 per 1,000 of the population.

Of the total deaths from this disease, 11 were in the lungs or bronchus (10 males and 1 female). The percentage of the cases in the lungs or bronchus was 15.7 per cent of cancer deaths (in 1971 it was 22 per cent).

Appendix I

CAUSES OF DEATH

Other Causes Perinatal Mortality	..	..	2
Birth Injury Difficult Labour	..	..	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	..	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	1
Influenza	..	..	2
Multiple Sclerosis	..	..	1
Benign Neoplasms	..	..	2
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	..	..	3
Malignant Neoplasm Buccal Cavity	..	..	1
Malignant Neoplasm Oesophagus	..	..	4
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	..	..	2
Malignant Neoplasm Intestine	..	..	16
Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	..	..	11
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	..	..	5
Malignant Neoplasm Prostate	..	..	4
Leukaemia	..	..	5
Other Malignant Neoplasms	..	..	19
Diabetes Mellitus	..	..	6
Other Diseases of Nervous System	..	..	4
Hypertensive Disease	..	..	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	..	..	82
Other Forms of Heart Disease	..	..	17
Cerebrovascular Disease	..	..	61
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	..	..	14
Pneumonia	..	..	24
Bronchitis and Emphysema	..	..	16
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	..	..	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	..	..	3
Peptic Ulcer	..	..	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	..	..	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	..	..	4
Other Diseases Genito-Urinary System	..	..	8
Congenital Anomalies	..	..	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	..	..	10
All other Accidents	..	..	7
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	..	..	2
Total, all Causes	..	..	350

The total number of deaths was 35 more than in the previous year, and the crude death-rate is 12.9 per 1,000 of the population.

The three chief causes of death were as in previous years: Heart and Circulatory diseases, Cerebro-Vascular diseases and Malignant diseases.

There were 10 deaths from motor vehicle accidents and 7 deaths from other accidents.

It will be noticed also that there were no deaths from the infectious diseases (diphtheria, measles, whooping cough and scarlet fever), which used to be cause of death among young children, and there have been no deaths from poliomyelitis.

Appendix II

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
Factories not included, in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	101	18	1	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	3	—	—	—
Total	104	18	1	—

2. Defects

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	7	7	—	—	—

3. Outwork—Nil.

